CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for coating an implantable device, comprising the acts of:

tumbling at least one implantable device; and

introducing a coating substance to the tumbling implantable device to coat the implantable device with the coating substance.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the implantable device is a stent.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the implantable device is tumbled in a coating pan.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the implantable device is tumbled in a coating pan by tilting the coating pan at an angle less than or equal to about 90 degrees with respect to a horizontal plane and rotating the coating pan about a rotating axis.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the pan is tilted at about 45 degrees with respect to the horizontal plane.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the pan is rotated between about 5 revolutions per minute (rpm) and about 400 rpm about the rotating axis.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein coating substance is sprayed on to the tumbling implantable device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the coating substance comprises a polymer dissolved in a fluid.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the coating substance further comprises an active agent.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the active agent is rapamycin, actinomycin D, paclitaxel or docetaxel.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising directing a gaseous composition over the tumbling implantable device to aid drying of the coating substance on to the implantable device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the gaseous composition comprises air.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the gaseous composition has a temperature between about 15° C and 200° C.

14. The method of claim 1, additionally including heating the implantable device prior to the application of the coating substance.

15. An implantable device comprising a coating wherein the coating is made by the method set forth in claim 1.

16. A method, comprising:

depositing at least one stent in a pan;

tilting the pan with respect to a horizontal plane such that an axis of the pan extends at an acute angle to the horizontal plane;

rotating the pan about the axis to tumble the stent in the pan; and

spraying a coating substance into the rotating pan onto the tumbling stent.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the coating substance comprises a polymer dissolved in a fluid.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the coating substance further comprises an active agent.

19. The method of claim 16, additionally comprising blowing air into the rotating pan.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the pan is tilted such that the axis of the pan extends at an angle of about 45 degrees from the horizontal plane.